

**POSITION STATEMENT  
TENNESSEE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE**

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**ADMINISTRATION OF INFLUENZA VACCINE**

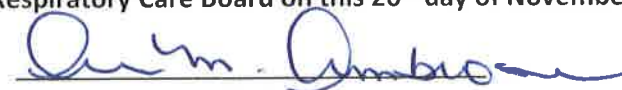
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Pursuant to TENN. CODE ANN. §63-27-102(4)(A)(i) the practice of respiratory care means, under the supervision, control, and responsibility of a licensed physician, the performance of cardiorespiratory research, cardiorespiratory health promotion and disease prevention, and community wellness and education programs. TENN. CODE ANN. §63-27-102(4)(A)(i)(a), defines a Respiratory Therapists' scope of practice to include the "administration of pharmacologic agents and medical gasses necessary to diagnose, implement treatment, promote disease prevention, and provide rehabilitation to the cardiorespiratory system." It is the position of the Board of Respiratory Care that a respiratory therapist, under the supervision of a licensed physician, can administer disease prevention agents such as the influenza vaccination.

Influenza viruses generally enter the system through and attach to tissues in the respiratory tract. The virus is harmful and dangerous to the respiratory tract cells, causing an immune system response. If untreated this infection can lead to pneumonia, the main cause of influenza related death. Secondary bacterial infections can also cause severe illnesses. Administration of the influenza vaccine by respiratory therapists is considered by the Board of Respiratory Care to be disease prevention.

The Respiratory Care Board believes that the scope of practice of a respiratory therapist licensed in Tennessee includes the administration of influenza vaccines. A therapist must be properly trained to administer the vaccination and do so under the supervision, control, and responsibility of a licensed physician. The Respiratory Care Board believes that this position statement will help address the extensive needs of the citizens of Tennessee to receive vaccination and help prevent the seasonal spread of the virus.

Adopted by the Respiratory Care Board on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014.



Chair

Board of Respiratory Care